



USAG-STUTTGART

SAFETY GRAM



ACCIDENT

Recently a soldier lost one finger and severely injured two other fingers when they came into contact with a circular saw blade of a table saw while he was cutting a piece of wood. The table saw guard was not in place.

ISSUES

Using powered woodworking machines without the necessary guards in place is an obvious hazard to the operator. This can be caused by overconfidence, which is a temporary state of mind caused by a person's unwarranted reliance on his own ability to perform a task.

Ensuring that standard operating procedures for the correct operation of powered woodworking machines are available and enforced, and that all persons are trained on correct usage, can eliminate or significantly reduce personnel injuries. Knowing and complying with established standards and procedures will reduce risks when operating powered woodworking machines.

The following recommendations are provided to assist leaders, supervisors, soldiers and civilian personnel in preventing serious injury when operating woodworking machines:

1. **Leaders/supervisors** must ensure that machine guarding is provided to protect the operator and other personnel in the machine area from hazards created by rotating or moving parts (**OSHA CFR 1910.212**).
2. **Leaders/supervisors** will ensure that all personnel are instructed on the safe operation of woodworking machines (**OSHA CFR 1960.59**).
3. **Leaders/supervisors** will ensure that Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the safe operation of woodworking machines are available to all personnel.
4. **Personnel** will only operate woodworking machines when the safeguards are in place. Only qualified persons will be allowed to alter/repair woodworking machines.